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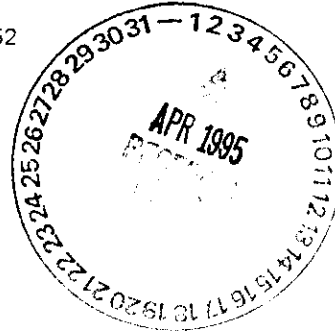
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Department of Energy

Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

0040755

MAR 29 1995



Ms. Donna Powaukee
Nez Perce Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 365
Lapwai, Idaho 83540-0365

Dear Ms. Powaukee:

**OFFER TO COORDINATE ON THE COLUMBIA RIVER COMPREHENSIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT
(CRCIA)**

In my letter to you, dated January 26, 1995, an invitation was extended to have the U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL), and Pacific Northwest Laboratory (PNL) meet with the Nez Perce Indian Tribe (NPT) at a time and place of your choosing to discuss the current work being performed by PNL to identify key plant and animal species for the risk assessment. RL again is extending an invitation to meet with the NPT to discuss the overall approach and the preliminary results for this activity. The delivery date of this report has been moved from March 1995 to July 1995, to allow for the implementation of modifications based on NPT input.

The CRCIA Project at PNL is supporting RL in evaluating the current human and ecological risks from the Columbia River attributable to past and present activities at the Hanford Site. The purpose of this letter is threefold: 1) to outline the activities to be performed on the CRCIA Project by PNL during the remainder of this fiscal year (FY), 2) to solicit comments on the Contaminants of Concern document just released for review, and 3) offer to meet and discuss a document in preparation identifying plant and animal species to be studied.

The budget for the CRCIA Project this FY is \$500K. The remainder of this year will be devoted to the following tasks: 1) completion of the Contaminants of Concern Report, 2) completion of the public review draft of the key plant and animal species document, 3) support of Native American and public involvement, and 4) preliminary development of Native American and ecological scenarios.

In late 1994 NPT participated in a discussion in Richland, Washington on the document titled "Identification of Contaminants of Concern (PNL-10400)". RL invites NPT to submit specific comments on the report. Because funds for the project have been reduced, the draft project schedule now calls for the document to be revised in October 1995, with a final version to be issued shortly thereafter. Even though the document will not be revised for some time, RL still solicits NPT comments within the next 60 days so that they can be considered as RL plans for work activities next fiscal year.

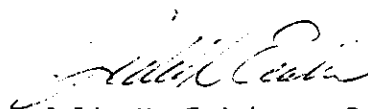
Ms. Donna Powaukee

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MAR 29 1995

Should you wish to set a date for these discussions, please contact
Mr. Randy Brich on (509) 376-9031.

Sincerely,



Julie K. Erickson, Director
River Sites Restoration Division

RSD:RFB

cc: R. Jim, YIN
H. Rueben, NPT
J. Wilkinson, CTUIR